

God's Solemn Summons to the Brethren Church

By the Late Rev. Louis S. Bauman, D.D.
The Brethren Missionary Herald
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Note—Recently the editor found among the numerous manuscripts left by his father one which was written more than 30 years ago, the message of which, however, is more timely today in some respects than it was at the time of its writing. Evidently it was preached as a sermon, probably in the church of which he was pastor. Possibly it was delivered at our national conference. In it Dr. Bauman showed a remarkable insight into the tremendous importance of maintaining just such a school as Grace Theological Seminary and College, the organization of which he helped to launch years later. The manuscript of the message is of too great length to reproduce here in full. It was felt that a condensation of it would be appreciated by our people, many of whom knew Dr. Bauman. Printing it at this time is especially appropriate. This week the students have been enjoying the inspiration of the annual Bauman Memorial Lectures, given this year by Dr. Orville Jobson. The article shows something of the spirit and genius of the man whose varied ministry inspired the establishment of these lectures. The article is printed also because its message is greatly needed just now, as we prepare for the construction of a new building on the Grace campus.—P.R.B.

"For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14).

The eternal God had an eternal purpose fixed for this old world before ever a ray of sunlight kissed its face, or even its foundations were laid. And this purpose was "according to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Eph. 3:11). Again it is written of Christ: "A lamb without blemish and without spot: who verily was fore-ordained before the foundation of this world" (I Pet. 1:19-20).



Dr. Bauman

The single thought of Satan, the archenemy of God, is to defeat this eternal purpose of Omnipotence, and thus to gain the throne of Omnipotence for himself. "Fall down and worship me, and in worshipping me, the world shall be Thine without the cross!" It was a tremendous temptation; and had the Lord of glory yielded to it, He would have saved himself from the cross, but the throne of His Omnipotence would have passed to Satan.

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

In the great mystery of God, He has chosen to take men into His fellowship as helpers in the accomplishing of His purposes. With angels, archangels, cherubim and seraphim all at His command, it is astounding that God should do so. Even in the tremendous work of redemption: "We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: be ye reconciled to God. . . . We then as workers together with him, beseech you" (II Cor. 5:20; 6:1).

Yes; it is a solemn fact that God called us to a great work for Him. If we fail Him, His purposes will not fail. Mordecai reminded the "fair and beautiful" Queen Esther of this solemn fact as her very life and the life of her people hung in the balances. God will simply

remove us, and "deliverance will arise from another place." God's crown is not lost. We simply lose our own. If God's chosen vessels fail Him, He will command the vessel that was not chosen!

God's eternal purpose today demands a faithful church that shall not fail to bear testimony to His truth until Jesus Christ returns. He declared it when He said: "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18). The faithful church may not be large, but here she must be unconquered by the forces of hell, holding the fort until relieved by her great Commander. Truth to tell, the faithful church will be a very small body indeed as this age deepens in its awful apostacy. What else can the words of the Master mean when He said: "As it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be in the days of the Son of man" (Luke 17:26). Small and insignificant to an apostate world she may seem; yet God's purpose hath been declared that He will have on earth a body of believers that are constant, "restraining now, until he be taken out of the way" (II Thess. 2:7 ASV).

THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Outside her directly spiritual weapons, such as prayer, the mightiest weapon of the Christian church is the Christian school. Woe to the church that puts a premium on ignorance by her neglect to educate her children, her future ministry, and her missionaries in schools that are faithful to her doctrines and her ideals! But, let her found such a school and straightway expect Satan to gather his forces and assault it with every means at His command. He recognizes, if we do not, the sacredness and seriousness of imparting knowledge to the rising generations. Give me the schools of the nation, and you can have her armies, her guns, her fortresses, her factories, and her battleships. In 10 years, I'll conquer you! The teacher is the creator and molder of character, and as such, he may be said to rule the world. If the world is in sad straights today, God alone knows how much of it is due to the fact that the Christian church has been sleeping while Satan has been busy stealing her schools, and using them for his own evil purposes.

May not God be speaking to the Brethren Church today, even as He spoke to Queen Esther: "And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" If there is to be salvation for the church today, that salvation will be brought forth by getting back to the infallible Word of God, and standing thereupon though the heavens fall. Deeply spiritually minded people are generally agreed on this. This being true, the Brethren Church is in a position to chal-

lunge the world to show an organization whose platform is more fundamentally true to the eternal and unchangeable Word of God than her own. Unquestionably, we have the message; and our ministry is more a unit in preaching that message than that of any other denomination. We may think ourselves weak and insignificant, but so did Queen Esther think as she went forth trembling to touch the king's scepter. So have the true prophets of God always been weak and insignificant in themselves yet mighty in their God. Our very weakness may prove to be our strength: "For when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Cor. 12:10).

OUR GREAT NEED

We have the message. What lack we yet? Unquestionably, our lack is that of a strong, virile, intellectually-equipped and spirit-filled ministry. Churches are constantly pleading for such men, and pleading in vain. Mission fields are calling for them, and calling in vain. Churches and mission fields drag along at snail's pace, and often perish for want of them. Recently, it was our privilege to make a trip to the great mission fields of South America. We found that in that vast continent, great universities are literally pouring forth vast armies of intellectual atheists. Against those vast armies of intellectually-equipped atheists shall we send a few non-intellectually equipped (i.e., untrained) men of God, and then marvel because one does not "chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight"? Say what we will (and God knows we would be the last person on earth to undervalue the purely spiritual equipment), it is not God's way. When God sent a lone man to chase a thousand, He struck down the best intellectually-equipped man of the world in that day, and one of the best of all time—the mighty Saul of Tarsus, "brought up at the feet of Gamaliel." It was such a man that He sent to do battle with the intellectual giants of darkness on Mar's Hill, and in the imperial courts of Rome. If I learned anything at all in South America, it was the folly of any attempt to make any great impression against the intellectually-equipped forces that are more and more dominating the great republics of the lands of the Southern Cross without sending against them spiritual men of God who are able to "hang Haman on his own gallows."

It is necessary for us to stand before such men in the pulpit, in the schoolroom, on the platform, or in the mart, and meet, expose, and refute their theories by reason and facts. We must match brains with brains. We must understand science if we are to prove to men that the charge that the Word of God and the facts of the world of science are not at loggerheads, but in their confirmation of each other are rather the best of friends. It is only as we shall establish, equip, and support the church school that is spiritually minded that we can thus "match brains with brains." Truth, God, and faith have absolutely nothing to fear from the respectable infidelity that parades forth in the name of scholarship and the guise of piety, if truth, God, and faith have men able to properly represent them, and show to the world that the scholarship of unbelief is but the result of a false education.

"Truth crushed to earth shall rise again,
The eternal years of God are hers;
While Error, wounded, writhes in pain,
And dies among her worshippers."

But truth rises only at the bidding of men who **know** her. "Ye shall **know** the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

Queen Esther's task was one of life or death. This heroic girl arose to the occasion. To save her people from death, she threw herself unreservedly into the balance: "If I perish, I perish!" But her God was with her. Omnipotence moved the arm of the haughty monarch, and his scepter shot forth. Esther touched it, and went farther—she touched the heart of the king who saved her people for her sake, and hanged Haman on the gallows he had built.

OUR TREMENDOUS TASK

My brethren, we are facing these days a more tremendous task. Our children are threatened with absolute spiritual death—eternal death—beside which physical death is not worth mentioning—threatened with it in the faith-destroying schools of higher learning. To save them from it is a task worthy of the gift of life itself, if need be. "If I perish, I perish!" The only way to do it is to establish for them a school within the domain of the church we love—a school that the church can control—and see to it that the school is as true to the faith of Jesus Christ, as the needle is to the pole. It is worth not only every dollar we can command; it is worth life itself to accomplish it. What is our time beside the attainment of this? "If I perish, I perish!" All our profession is a meaningless nothing, all our faith is hollow, if we hold back the money that shall enable the church to have a school in these days of terrible apostasy where her children shall be strengthened in their most holy faith, instead of having it shattered to pieces on the rocks of doubt and unbelief!

With the church it is a question of life or death! With our children it is a question of eternal life or eternal death! It cannot be ignored. Our school must be maintained morally, spiritually, and financially. Some of us may have to die poor! But, "If I perish, I perish!"

GIFTS TO GRACE SEMINARY

December 31, 1956

Aleppo, Pa.	\$1.00	Peru, Ind.	1.00
Alexandria, Va.	15.00	Philadelphia, Pa.	
Allentown, Pa.	21.18	(First)	155.00
Alto, Mich.	5.00	Rittman, Ohio	72.50
Altoona, Pa. (First) ..	10.00	Sidney, Ind.	13.00
Beaumont, Calif.	33.00	South Bend, Ind.	5.00
Bellflower, Calif.	7.00	Sterling, Ohio	59.00
Berne, Ind.	36.00	Temple City, Calif.	50.00
Camden, Ohio	8.00	Washington, D. C.	14.20
Clay City, Ind.	216.50	Waterloo, Iowa	114.22
Conemaugh, Pa. (Pike) ..	117.00	Waynesboro, Pa.	123.00
Covington, Va.	8.00	Whittier, Calif. (First) ..	183.00
Cuba, N. Mex.	25.00	Winchester, Va.	36.00
Dayton, Ohio (First) ...	293.50	Winona, Minn.	2.00
Denver, Colo.	13.74	Winona Lake, Ind.	377.74
Englewood, Ohio	175.50	Isolated Brethren	11.00
Everett, Pa.	9.00	Non-Brethren	387.00
Findlay, Ohio	12.00	Maintenance Gift	500.00
Fremont, Ohio (Grace) ..	222.25		
Garwin, Iowa	71.00	Total General Fund ..	\$4,638.68
Grandview, Wash.	24.00	Designated Gifts:	
Harrisburg, Pa.	19.50	Ashland, Ohio	200.00
Inglewood, Calif.	35.15	Canton, Ohio	40.00
Johnstown, Pa. (First) ..	80.00	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	100.00
Johnstown, Pa.		Kittanning, Pa. (First) ..	50.00
(Riverside)	37.20	Long Beach, Calif.	
Kittanning, Pa. (First) ..	35.00	(First)	600.00
La Verne, Calif.	5.00	Martinsburg, Pa.	26.55
Leesburg, Ind.	32.50	Peru, Ind.	19.50
Limestone, Tenn.	8.00	Temple City, Calif.	5.00
Long Beach, Calif.		Washington, D. C.	56.40
(First)	520.00	Waynesboro, Pa.	10.00
Mansfield, Ohio (Grace) ..	373.00	Non-Brethren	50.00
Martinsburg, Pa.	10.00	Alumni Association	500.00
New Troy, Mich.	25.00	Student Body	58.75
Meyersdale, Pa.		Building Fund	6,769.30
(Summit Mills)	19.00		
Palmyra, Pa.	13.00	Total Designated Gifts ..	\$8,485.51